

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 158883

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEHRAN 6439 ACTION SECSTATE JUL 5.

QUOTE: S E C R E T TEHRAN 6439

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS 2

TAGS: PFOR, UR, LY, EG, TU

SUBJ: SOVIET MILITARY AID TO LIBYA

REFS: (A) TEHRAN 5351 (B) STATE 140138 (C) TEHRAN 5916

1. DURING AUDIENCE MORNING JULY 5, SHAH PRODUCED DOCUMENT WHICH HE SAID HAD BEEN GIVEN HIM BY EGYPTIANS. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE DOCUMENT WAS IN ARABIC, SO THAT HE COULD ONLY READ ENOUGH TO TRANSLATE CATEGORIES AND FIGURES. THE DOCUMENT IS PURPORTED TO BE AN EGYPTIAN INTELLIGENCE REPORT GIVEN TO THE SHAH BY ASHRAF MARWAN LISTING THE SOVIET WEAPONS PROMISED RECENTLY TO LIBYA.

2. ACCORDING TO THE SHAH'S DECIPHERING OF THE DOCUMENT, THE SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT BEING GIVEN TO LIBYA IS APPROXIMATELY AS FOLLOWS (THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT WHAT FOLLOWS IS

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MATELY AS FOLLOWS (THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT WHAT FOLLOWS IS

A TOTAL LIST): (A) 36 MIG-23'S; (B) 24 TU-22'S; (C) AIR-TO-SURFACE TV-GUIDED MISSILE SYSTEM (SOMEWHAT LIKE THE CONDOR; (D) 8 IL-76'S; (E) 36 MI-8 AND 12 MI-12 HELICOPTERS; (F) 24 OSA CLASS BOATS WITH STYX MISSILES; (G) 6 SUBMARINES; (H) TANKS: 200 T-72 (122 MM GUNS), 1,000 T-62, AND 1,720 T-55; (I) LATEST VERSIONS OF SA-2, SA-3, AND SA-6; (J) QUANTITIES OF PERSONNEL CARRIERS, GUNS, HOWITZERS, ETC.

3. THE SHAH'S IMPRESSION AND CONCERN ARE THAT THIS QUANTITY OF ARMS IN LIBYA WOULD CONSTITUTE A DEPOT FOR USE BY SOVIET AIRBORNE DIVISIONS IN AN EMERGENCY. IF LIBYA WERE AT ANY TIME TO ASK FOR SOVIET INTERVENTION IN THE AREA, ALL NECESSARY MILITARY EQUIPMENT WOULD BE AVAILABLE ON THE GROUND TO SUPPORT SOVIET TROOPS.

4. THE SHAH ADMITTED THAT THE EGYPTIANS HAD A DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION OF WHAT THE SOVIETS AND LIBYANS HAD IN MIND. HE SAID THAT THE EGYPTIANS BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIETS ARE SENDING THIS EQUIPMENT TO LIBYA AS A DEVICE FOR ULTIMATELY PROVIDING ARMS TO TURKEY. THE EGYPTIANS HAVE POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT LIBYA HAS CONTRACTED FOR 600,000 WORKERS FROM TURKEY AND THAT AMONG THESE WORKERS MAY WELL BE MANY MILITARY OFFICERS.

5. COMMENT: (A) THE SHAH DID NOT KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THE EGYPTIANS HAD PASSED THE FIGURES IN PARAGRAPH TWO ABOVE TO AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE. SINCE WE DO NOT KNOW EITHER, WE SEND THEM ALONG, AS PRESENTED BY THE SHAH, FOR WHAT THEY ARE WORTH. (B) WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE DEPARTMENT WOULD MAKE DECISION ON WHETHER THIS TELEGRAM SHOULD BE PASSED TO OTHER AMERICAN EMBASSIES.
HELMS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, MILITARY SALES, MILITARY PLANS, CAT-A
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE158883
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RKUCHEL:HE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Film Number: N750001-0686
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750782/aaaacvkz.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 TEHRAN 5351, 75 STATE 140138, 75 TEHRAN 5916
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET MILITARY AID TO LIBYA
TAGS: PFOR, UR, LY, EG, TU, (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMAD REZA)
To: CAIRO TRIPOLI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006